

Knight Farm
East side Old Mine Road
Smith Ferry Vicinity
Walpack Township
Sussex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-814

HABS
NJ
19-SMIF.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
KNIGHT FARM NJ-814

Location: East side Old Mine Road, .3 mile northeast of Smith Ferry,
Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Flatbrookville Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.503520.4451320.

Corn Crib and Hog Barn moved to Millbrook, exact location
unknown, ca. 1975.

Present Owner: United States Government.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: Within this farm group that developed between 1826 and 1910,
two significant structures are the corn crib and hog barn.
The corn crib is an excellent example of early corn cribs in
the Delaware River Valley, featuring a frame that is hewn and
pegged. The hog barn was built in about 1915 to replace the
one located inconveniently across the road.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The corn crib was built in the nineteenth
century. Although Albert Knight, who acquired the property in
1872, is said to have built it, the pegged framing indicates an
earlier date. The hog barn was built circa 1915, according to
Harriet Knight, widow of the builder.

2. Original and subsequent owners: Records in Sussex County Court
House, Newton, New Jersey.

1814 Deed: 1 April 1814 Rec. 25 May 1814
Deed Book vol. C-2 p. 236
Elias Mushback, George Mushback, John Mushback,
Lenilla Jones
to John Vanscoder
\$2000 105 acres 26.40 acres

1817 Deed: 15 Feb. 1817 Rec. 20 Feb 1817
Deed Book vol. 9-2 p. 110
John Brown and wife to John Vanscoder
\$150 10.60 acres

1826 Deed 28 Dec. 1826 Rec. 27 Jan. 1827
Deed Book Vol. D-3 p. 213

John Vanscoder to Garret Vanscoder
\$1000 1/2 undivided part of 105 acres, 26.40 acres, 10.60
acres

1826 Deed 28 Dec. 1826 Rec. 27 Jan 1827
Deed Bk. vol D-3 p. 215
John Vanscoder to Jacob Vanscoder
\$1000 1/2 undivided part of 105 acres, 26.40 acres, 10.60
acres

There was much trading of this property among the Vanscoders in 1829, which
resulted in Garrett Vanscoder reacquiring the property with a partner in 1830:

1830 Deed: 2 March 1830 Rec. 10 May 1831
Deed Book Vol. L-3 p. 197
Jacob Vanscoder & Eliza, Daniel Decker & Mary,
John W. Vanauken & Rachel, Zadok Vanscoder,
William A. Hull & Elizabeth
to Christian Smith, Garret Vanscoder
\$1,059.79 All their equal halves or parts

1830 Deed: 2 March 1830 Rec. 14 June 1834
Same as above recorded again

1831 Christian Smith died intestate
Garrett Vanscoder, Elijah Rosenkrans, and Philip J. Smith,
Admr.

1834 Deed: 11 April 1834 Rec. 14 June 1834
Deed Book Vol. P-3 p. 334
Philip J. Smith & Elizabeth, Elijah Rosenkrans & Mary,
to Garret Vanscoder
\$888.88 2/3 of 1/2 of undivided part...

1835 Garret Vanscoder died intestate
Daniel D. Decker, Admr.

1871 Deed 12 April 1871 Rec. 24 April 1871
Deed Book Vol. D-6 p. 487
Erastus Gunn & Drusilla to Elijah Rosenkrans
\$1,500 1/4 undivided part (Drusilla was a daughter of
Garret Vanscoder)

1872 Deed: 1 April 1872 Rec. 2 April 1872
Deed Book Vol. G-6 p. 574
Harmon C. Riggs & Susannah A., Elijah Rosenkrans & Amanda,
Jacob C. Fuller & Catherine P., Eli Fuller, Jr. & Elmira,
Charles B. Riggs & Tebitha A.
to Albert Knight
\$2,680 105 acres, 10.6 acres, 26.4 acres

"...being the same land and premises whereof Garret Vanscoter died seized as tenant in common with the heirs at law of Christian Smith (who was the father of said Susannah A. (Riggs))"

- 1909 Albert Knight died intestate 27 Jan. 1909
Robert Craig, Jr. Admr.
- 1909 Deed: 23 Feb. 1909 Rec. 23 Feb. 1909
Deed Book Vol. 0-10 p. 195
Annie E. Swartwout & husband to John L. B. Knight
\$666.66 105 acres, 10.60 acres, 26.40 acres
- 1909 Deed: 23 Feb. 1909 Rec. 23 Feb. 1909
Deed Book Vol. 0-10 p. 197
Hannah G. Knight to John I. B. Knight
\$666.66 105 acres, 10.60 acres, 26.40 acres
- 1962 Will: 9 August 1956 Decd. 25 July 1962
Will Book vol. 43 p. 200
John I. B. Knight to son, Alvin B. Knight: the farm,
Alvin B. Knight and wife Harriet D. Knight, Exrs.
- 1963 Alvin B. Knight died intestate
Mamie Knight Admr.
- 1965 Deed: 3 Feb. 1965 Rec. 3 Feb. 1965
Deed Book Vol. 786 p. 1
Mamie E. Knight (wife of Alvin)
Harriet D. Knight (wife of John)
to Jack-Rack, Inc.
113.04 acres
- 1965 Deed: 3 Feb. 1965
Deed Book vol. 786 p. 10
Jack-Rack, Inc. to Irwin L. Burack
113.04 acres
- 1966 Deed: 24 August 1966 Rec. 1966
Deed Book vol. 801 p. 1197
Irwin L. Burack to Louis Del Grosso, et ux
Harold Del Grosso, et ux
113.04 acres
3. Builder: Albert Knight (d.1909) may have built the corn crib.
He built the barn and wagon shed when he took possession of the
farm in 1872. The hog barn was probably constructed by its
owner, John I. B. Knight.
4. Original plans and construction: The former hog house was across

the road and inconveniently located. The Knights kept six hogs; that is, three to sell and three to eat. The farm originally comprised 180 acres, and the Knights engaged in "general farming".

5. Alterations and additions: According to Mrs. John Knight (wife of Albert Knight's son) there was a very old latch on the door of the corn crib which was removed some time after 1963.

B. Sources of Information:

Interview with Mrs. John I. B. Knight (b. 1885), Branchville, N.J. 14 August 1970.

Prepared by: William C. Badger
Project Historian
HABS
August, 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION ON THE CORN CRIB

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A good example of a typical type of farm building.
2. Condition of fabric: fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The one-story structure measures 4'-3" across its one-bay front by 20'-3" along its two-bay length.
2. Foundations: Creosoted wooden posts driven into the ground plus one poured concrete pier.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Thin vertical slatted side walls. Northeast end formed of boards fastened on in a radial pattern because the top is wider than the bottom. Southwest (front) end made of vertical boarding. Sides show signs of old red paint, but wide vertical boards at mid-points were white. Southwest end was red. Northeast end appears to once have been red and at a different time white. Eaves on northwest side were green.
4. Structural system, framing: Pinned frame construction. Most beams hewn, but several major structural members sawn on an up-and-down saw.
5. Stoops: Poured concrete steps at southwest end.

6. Openings: Door on southwest end is missing. Three loading hatches are in place, two on the northwest side, and one on the southeast side.
7. Roof: Gable roof with wooden shingles and overhanging eaves on all sides.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plan: Long rectangular shape.
2. Flooring: Double flooring of planks, lengthwise, butt jointed.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Exposed construction on inside. Rafter s made from assorted sizes of scrap lumber.
4. Doorways and doors: Main door missing. Loading doors made by nailing vertical slats to horizontal boards top and bottom.
5. Decorative features and trim: Initials: M carved in west end of northwest side. K
6. Hardware: Pintles remaining on door frame are hand wrought but threaded on the ends and fastened on with nuts. Cut nails throughout.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION ON THE HOG BARN

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Good example of this type of small building.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. Abandoned.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: One story, roughly 18' square.
2. Foundations: Stone piers. Each pier is a pile of stones.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Vertical planks fastened with wire nails.
4. Structural system, framing: Braced timber frame with angle braces at top of each column, mortised and pegged. Timbers are hewn square. Loft floor joists are sawn lumber. Rafter s are round, unfinished.

5. Porches: Shed at one end.
6. Openings: Vertical boards with three horizontal battens. Main door has machine cut nails, clinched.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable. Corrugated iron covering on wood stripping spaced about 10" on centers.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Open eaves. Metal gutter on entrance side.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Two pens at main level.
2. Stairways: Wood.
3. Flooring: Planks, main level and attic.

D. Site

Other structures in the farm complex are a house, barn, silo, chicken house, and corn crib, the latter recorded as HABS No. NJ-814A.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
Project Historian
HABS
July 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1969 under the direction of Roy C. Pledger (Texas A & M University) Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Robert J. Dunay (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), William H. Edwards (University of Illinois), and Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Hidden Lake, Pennsylvania, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Wesley Shank and William C. Badger, project historians, in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher in 1969.